3 hours (+) 5 minutes

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1863)

Name of Candidate	ASHISH		
Medium Eng./Hindi	Eng.	Registration Number	1010258
Center	ONLINE	Date	01/01/22

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (*viz.* Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. Parliamentary oversight of administration is not an end in itself rather it acts as a means to strengthen the efficient functioning of the administration. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

प्रशासन की संसदीय निगरानी अपने आप में एक अंत नहीं है बल्कि यह प्रशासन के कुशल कामकाज को मजबूत करने के एक साधन के रूप में कार्य करता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Parliamentary Oversight of administration refers to the process of the legislature (i.e. parliament) examining the functioning of the executive (i.e. administration).

As per Article 75, the executive is responsible to the legislature.

Parliamentary Oversight → Means and Not an end in itself

① Ensures accountability and answerability of the administration towards the people of country through the representatives (parliamentarians).

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(2) Ensures effective use of funds through Estimates and Public Accounts Committees.

(3) Prevents despotism and authoritarian tendencies of the administration.

(4) Ensures that rights and principles like equality etc. are upheld.

(5) Ensures that democratic structure remains intact. eg. through removal process of Election commissioners, UPSC chairman etc.

However, considering parliamentary Oversight as an end in itself results in only procedural democracy rather than substantive democracy. Parliamentary oversight of administration is the cornerstone of the democratic structure in the representative democracy of India.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2. The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution has weakened the democratic credentials of India's representative democracy. Critically discuss.

(150 words) 10

संविधान की दसवीं अनुसूची ने भारत के प्रतिनिधि लोकतंत्र की लोकतांत्रिक साख को कमजोर कर दिया है। समालोचनात्मक विवेचना कीजिए।

Tenth schedule of the constitution contains the Anti-Defection provisions which were added by the 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act.

10th schedule contains provisions preventing defection in central and state legislatures through provisions like:

* Disqualification for : ① Voluntarily giving up of

② Joining of a political party by an independent canditate or by a nominated member after 6 months

③ voting against party directives in certain elections / motions

Weakening of democracy by 10th schedule

① Prevents the members from exercising

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individual rights.

② Prevents the elected members from working for the benefit of the constituency that elected them → in favour of voting according to Party directives

③ Dilutes the credentials of representative and substantive democracy → makes it a party centred procedural democracy

④ Prevents members from stopping anti-democratic measures advocated by party.

However, 10th Schedule was a necessary step to curtail undemocratic tendencies in Indian democracy because:

① Prevented opportunistic moves (eg. changing of party for personal gains)

② Prevented corruption in 'trading' of elected representatives

③ Prevented loss to the exchequer through frequent elections

④ Ensured stable policies (eg. Economic Survey advocates Policy certainty)

Therefore, 10th Schedule has more benefits than problems.

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3. Article 246 of the Indian Constitution is considered as the cornerstone of Centre-state legislative relations. Discuss. (150 words) 10

भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 246 को केंद्र-राज्य विधायी संबंधों की आधारशिला माना जाता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Article 246 contains provisions for the division of responsibilities between Centre and States in the federal structure of Indian Polity. It is associated with the 7th schedule of the Constitution.

Cornerstone of Centre-State legislative relations → ~~7th~~ Article 246

① Divides the legislative subjects into three lists: Union list, State list, Concurrent list

② Allows for clear cut demarcation of boundaries within which the levels of government have to operate.

③ Concurrent list allows flexibility in areas that are relevant for both

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Centre and state. eg. labour disputes

(4) Recognises the relevance of States' executive functions for implementation of projects

(5) Written separation of legislative powers ensures that disputes are reduced to a minimum.

However, these provisions have also resulted in certain conflicts due to conflicting and often contradictory provisions (eg. Water in 'state list' and 'Inter State Rivers and River Valleys' in Union List).

Also, these provisions are altered in the case of National Emergency under Article 352 when the Indian State becomes unitary.

Apart from such emergency situations, Article 246 is the shining example of the majesty of India's Centre-State cooperative federalism.

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4. Although the provision of issuing ordinances amounts to the usurpation of legislative power by the Executive, both Centre and states in India have taken unrestrained course to it. Discuss. (150 words) 10

हालांकि अध्यादेश जारी करने का प्रावधान कार्यपालिका द्वारा विधायी शक्ति के अधिग्रहण के समान है, फिर भी भारत में केंद्र और राज्यों दोनों ने इसे अनियंत्रित रीति से प्रयुक्त किया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Article 123 and Article 213 provide ordinance powers to the President and the State Governors respectively.

Usurpation of legislative power by executive through ordinances

① Executive can make laws despite any support from legislature which is the representative democratic body.

② Breach of the parliamentary process (eg. scrutiny by committees).

③ May be used to satisfy narrow political vested interests

④ Centralisation of powers within a limited Council of Ministers

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However, Ordinances are used in unrestrained fashion by both Centre and states because:

① Often, it is the need of the hour to use Ordinance when one or both the legislative houses are not in session eg. during COVID-19 pandemics

② Some issues that are of urgent nature may take some time to build consensus on (especially in coalition governments). eg. Multi-state cooperatives related provisions

③ Vested political interests coupled with authoritarian bent

In the DC Wadhwa case, the apex court put restrictions on promulgation and unrestricted promulgations of ordinances. The guidelines can help prevent usurpation of power.

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5. There has been a manifold increase in the number of ministries in the central government since independence. Do you agree with the view there is a need to phase out many ministries and amalgamate others in this context? (150 words) 10

स्वतंत्रता के बाद से केंद्र सरकार में मंत्रालयों की संख्या में कई गुना वृद्धि हुई है। क्या आप इस विचार से सहमत हैं कि इस संदर्भ में कई मंत्रालयों को चरणबद्ध तरीके से समाप्त करने और अन्य को समामेलित करने की आवश्यकता है?

The 91st Amendment Act limited the size of Council of Ministers (at both central and state levels) to 15% of the strength of lower house

Manifold Increase in Central ministries

Causes (Need)

① Increasing differentiation and specialization of work eg. ~~MSME~~ MSME sector requires different approach than other commerce and industry issues

② Political motives → to placate many coalition partners after the breaking of 'Congress Raj'

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(3) Release of burden on selected ministries - as India is a vast country and even small ministers have huge work load

(4) Increased accountability and transparency

~~However, following problems have arisen~~ → Need for phasing out/amalgamation

(1) Overlapping jurisdictions have created operational inefficiencies (one of the reasons why water related ministries were added/amalgamated in 'Jal Shakti' Ministries)

(2) For Policy certainty, Stability and convergence of ideas

(3) For Better utilization of funds

(4) For Quick decision making

There is a need to balance efficiency and ~~cet~~ centralisation of power in the Central Government.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. Evaluate the success of Digital India in fulfilling its vision of transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. (150 words) 10

भारत को डिजिटल रूप से सशक्त समाज और ज्ञान आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था में बदलने के अपने दृष्टिकोण को पूरा करने में डिजिटल इंडिया की सफलता का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Digital India Initiative envisaged the transformation of India into a digitally empowered society and Knowledge Economy.

Data:→ According to Digital India dashboard, now there are more than 1 billion mobile connections in India and internet penetration is ~50%.

Success of Digital India

For Govt.

① Better service delivery and beneficiary identification eg. through use of Aadhaar, e-RUPI, JAM

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

② Direct Benefit Transfer and reduction of subsidy leakages eg. PM JAY

③ Better tax compliance

for Citizens

① Human Capital Improvement → eg. DISHA portal for education, e-Sanjeevani for health

② Grievance Redressal eg. Banking related online platforms

③ Welfare of MSMEs through Udyam portal

However, Digital India's success has been dented by following limitations

① Digital Divide, Urban-Rural Divide, Rich-Poor Divide

② lack of last mile connectivity (eg. Pratham's ASER report → only few rural students had internet during COVID)

③ cyber security related issues, Data Protection law still not formed

However, Digital India has played an important role in transforming Indians from 'snake charmers' to 'mouse-charmers' according to PM Modi.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

7. Examine the issues related to poverty measurement in India. Suggest measures to improve upon the existing methodologies. (150 words) 10

भारत में निर्धनता के मापन से संबंधित मुद्दों का परीक्षण कीजिए। मौजूदा पद्धतियों में सुधार के उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

According to Economic Survey, poverty refers to the distribution of assets and resources at the bottom level of society.

Poverty Measurement

↳ Important committees / panels

1. ~~Alg~~ Alagh Committee
2. Lakdawala Committee
3. Tendulkar Committee
4. Rangarajan Committee

Issues related to poverty measurement

1. Multiplicity of approaches → lack of consensus eg. Calorie Approach, per day expenditure approach etc.

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② lack of all India level data

③ centralised approach has created many issues like 'one size fits all' approach for poverty measurement throughout India

④ Purely economic view (eg. $1.2/day) ignores multiple other deprivations eg. homelessness, caste discriminations etc.

⑤ lack of political will to counter the issue head on

(Possible measures)

① Focus on multi dimensional poverty (eg. NITI Aayog's approach) → higher chances of holistic measurement

② Misery Index

③ Socio-Economic Caste Census using modern data-analytics

Poverty alleviation is a major part of being a welfare state (Article 38) and for that a proper poverty measurement exercise is sine-qua-non.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

8. As one of the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, discuss the rationale behind internationalisation of higher education in India and its associated challenges. (150 words) 10

राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP), 2020 की सिफारिशों में से एक के रूप में, भारत में उच्चतर शिक्षा के अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण के लिए दिए गए तर्क और इससे जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

National Education Policy (NEP) was published after 34 years of the last education policy in 1986.

NEP 2020 recommended internationalisation of higher education i.e. Indian colleges setting up branches abroad and foreign colleges setting up branches in India

Rationale behind internationalisation of higher education

① Interaction between Global Best practices and Indian system of education
eg. BITS Pilani → benefitted from this synthesis

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

② Increased diversity of students as well as professors → will increase social capital in addition to human capital.

③ Relevant modern skills will be transferred to Indian students → currently only 47% of graduates in India are considered employable

④ chances of greater industry - academia linkages

Associated challenges

- lack of spending on education (still less than 2%)
- lack of quality professors
- fear of less demand of Indian Universities (only 3-4 are in global top 250)
- lack of land availability in India

Higher Education is the key to reap the burgeoning demographic dividend of India whose median age is only 28.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

9. Stating the significance of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), examine whether they have been as beneficial as expected for India. (150 words) 10

मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों (FTAs) के महत्व को वर्णित करते हुए, परीक्षण कीजिए कि क्या वे भारत के लिए अपेक्षा के अनुसार लाभदायक रहे हैं।

Free Trade Agreements refer to bilateral or multilateral agreements between countries and groupings to facilitate trade between them at certain favorable conditions.

eg. India - Sri Lanka FTA was 1st such FTA

(FTAs → Beneficial to India)

① India's economy has grown from $0.6 Trillion to $2.6 Trillion in the 30 years post-LPG reforms when FTAs started in vigorous fashion

② India has became part of global value chain eg. Samsung and Apple both produce phones in India

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

③ Greater regional connectivity → eg. with ASEAN through IMT, Kaladan Multimodal transit corridor

④ Better people to people relations due to diaspora movement and engagement

⑤ Reduced wars and conflicts (It is often said that where goods can't pass, armies often do).

Limitations of FTAs for India

- Very high trade deficit eg. with ASEAN
- Differential benefits eg. Sri Lanka has gained more
- Base Erosion and Profit Shifting
- Greater dependance on other countries eg. for medical supplies

However, the reintensification of FTA talks with USA, UK and EU indicate that India wants to take benefit of 'China+1' policy of major anchor firms.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

10. Though multilateral development banks (MDBs) are crucial for holistic development of developing nations like India, there are certain legitimate concerns about their functioning. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

यद्यपि बहुपक्षीय विकास बैंक (MDBs) भारत जैसे विकासशील देशों के समग्र विकास के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं, तथापि उनके कामकाज के बारे में कुछ वैध चिंताएं भी हैं। विवेचना कीजिए।

Multilateral development Banks (MDBs) refer to the financial institution of ~~bor~~ development bank being formed by collaboration of multiple countries. ~~with~~ eg. ADB etc.

MDBs
- Equal share — eg. BRICS development bank
- Unequal share — eg. Asian Development Bank

MDBs → Crucial for holistic development of developing nations like India

① Development funds at lost interest rates help in undertaking long-gestation infrastructure projects.

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② Creation of physical infrastructure whereas the non-debt creating revenue can be used for creation of social infrastructure eg. schools

③ Emergency and urgent situations can be dealt with eg. loans by ~~MDBs~~ MDBs during pandemic

④ Greater international pressure for sound economic policies and transparency → reduced corruption

Legitimate concerns
- → Reduced economic sovereignty
- → Donor-based policies
- → Greater area for conflict in future
- → Hegemony of larger powers eg. USA in ADB

According to PM Modi, only reformed multilateralism with reformed UN can meet aspirations of humanity.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

11. Despite the legal framework to resolve inter-state river water disputes, why do they continue to exist? Also, discuss measures that can be taken to resolve such disputes in an expeditious and agreeable manner.

(250 words) 15

अंतर्राज्यीय नदी जल विवादों को हल करने के लिए कानूनी ढांचे के विद्यमान होने के बावजूद, वे अभी भी जारी क्यों हैं? साथ ही, ऐसे विवादों को शीघ्र और सहमतिपूर्ण रीति से हल करने के लिए किए जा सकने वाले उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Article 262 empowers the Parliament to create institutional framework like ~~tribuhals~~ tribunals to resolve inter-state river water disputes.

legal framework in India → under Article 262

- Inter-State River Water Dispute Act 1956
- River Board Act 1956

Persistence of such disputes → can be attributed to three ambiguities

① Historical geographical ambiguity:
Formation of states based on linguistic

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

rather than geographical principles such as river boundaries (natural)

② ~~Constitutional-legal~~ Institutional ambiguities →

Article 262 prohibits the jurisdiction of Supreme Court from such disputes but Article 131 gives original jurisdiction to resolve inter-state disputes. Also, Supreme Court is a court of appeal and thus all cases reach there even after rulings of tribunals.

③ Constitutional-legal ambiguity →

7th Schedule → 'Water' is in State list but 'Inter State Rivers and River Valleys' are in Union list

Measures to be taken

① Use of existing constitutional mechanisms eg. Article 263 → Inter State Council

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② Consultative and cooperative federalism → eg. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu previously resolved disputes due to consultations and deliberations

③ Political Will → to finalise the constitutional and legal framework and jurisdictions

④ Moving away from 'arithmetic approach' of resolving such disputes → and looking for more visionary and holistic solutions

⑤ River Basin Management Bill and Dam Safety Bill → to remove minor apprehensions eg. Kerala with respect to Mullaperiyar Dam

In the era of shifting paradigm of water (from supply based to demand side based solutions), Inter State River Water Disputes must be ensured to provide SDG 6 to future generations

Don't write anything in margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

12. While use of technology is a welcome step towards improving the efficiency of the judicial system, it must be understood that technology itself comes with a set of challenges that make justice even more inaccessible. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

हालांकि न्यायिक प्रणाली की दक्षता में सुधार की दिशा में प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग एक स्वागत योग्य कदम है, लेकिन यह भी समझा जाना चाहिए कि प्रौद्योगिकी स्वयं चुनौतियों के एक समूह को साथ लाती है जो न्याय को और भी अधिक दुर्गम बनाती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

~~Ans~~ The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the use of technology in judicial system eg. Virtual Courts, e-challans etc.

Technology → welcome step towards improving the efficiency of the judicial system

→ According to NITI Aayog, if drastic measures are not taken, the current rate of pendency will take 329 years to be solved by the prevalent judicial system. ⇒ Thus, there is urgent need of technology in judicial system

→ Access to justice (Article 39A) → Technology will enhance access to justice

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

through e-courts, virtual courts etc. → Remote corners of India that are far away from New Delhi (seat of the SC) lack access to justice

→ will ensure that India becomes a hub of arbitration eg. through Online Dispute Resolutions (ODR)

→ will make justice more affordable for the poor

→ large number of undutrials will get justice (Supreme Court → Right to life is available even to prisoners)

Challenges associated with use of technology in judicial system

① lack of data protection law in India → technology can cause large data breaches and judicial cases involve sensitive and critical personal data
eg. Dominos data leak

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(2) Will increase the divide between rich and poor and urban and rural

(3) Even judges are not properly technologically literate

(4) Cyber security related threats + outside forces can hinder the process of justice eg. Evidence tampering

(5) The separation between judiciary and executive (Article 50) may be threatened as executive controls the use of technology

The report of Joint Parliamentary Committee with regards to use of technology in judicial system contains important provisions for better implementation.

But first, last mile connectivity through BharatNET, optical fibre networks, PM-WANI must gulf the digital divide.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

13. The current urban planning capacities in India are extremely skeletal and need systemic reforms and a change in mindset. Discuss. (250 words) 15

भारत में शहरी नियोजन की वर्तमान क्षमताएं अत्यंत सीमित हैं तथा प्रणालीगत सुधारों और मानसिकता में बदलाव की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Urban planning refers to the process through which urbanization is controlled and regulated through proper planning, data analytics, multi-stake holder approach etc.

Current 'skeletal' urban planning capacities in India

① Centralisation of capacities in Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

② Lack of powers to urban local bodies

③ Functions and Functionaries and funds are all lacking in the urban planning skeleton of India

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(4) 74th Amendment → District Planning Committees have been unable to turn the tide of unplanned urbanisation in India

(5) States have little fiscal space to maneouvre and plan urban development

(6) Finance Commission (Article 280) grants in this regard are usually limited and conditional (eg. 15th FC)

Need Systemic Reforms and change of Mindset

(1) Awareness is needed about the benefits of planned urbanization. eg. 'Chandigarh' gained due to planning

(2) To resolve water stress → Planned Urban development helped London to cleanse River Thames

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(3) India is the only G20 country which doesn't have functional Mayors in major cities who are responsible

(4) ~~lack of~~ R&D in research institutions like IISc Bangalore and IIT Delhi
→ In the field of 'urban planning'
→ must be used by the govt.

(5) Increasing instances of urban flash floods, heat island phenomena etc. can be resolved only by proper urban planning

(6) Olga Tellis case → Right of livelihood, residence etc. are part of Article 21
→ urban planning can help ensure these rights

The current emphasis on urban planning through schemes like PM Awas Yojana, AMRUT, Smart Cities Mission etc. represent the necessity of imminent change.

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14. Reservation for women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) has not translated into corresponding increase in women's representation in India's state legislatures. Bringing out the reasons for the same, discuss how under-representation of women in the state legislatures can be corrected.

(250 words) 15

पंचायती राज संस्थाओं (PRIs) में महिलाओं के लिए प्रदत्त आरक्षण उसी अनुपात में भारत की राज्य विधान-मंडलों में महिलाओं के प्रतिनिधित्व में वृद्धि में परिवर्तित नहीं हुआ है। इसके कारणों को वर्णित करते हुए चर्चा कीजिए कि राज्य विधान-मंडलों में महिलाओं के कम प्रतिनिधित्व में कैसे सुधार किया जा सकता है।

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment institutionalised reservation for women (one-third) in the PRIs and also added the 11th Schedule to the Constitution.

However, it has not translated into corresponding increase in women's representation in State legislature.

This is because:

① Women used as 'proxy' representatives of their husbands in PRIs
eg. 'Sarpanch Pati' syndrome

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(2) Improper devolution of funds and functions to PRIs by state governments → this has resulted in ~~pres~~ persistence of 'capacity gap' of women representatives

(3) Prevailing patriarchal norms in most of the states → women are seen as inferior and unsuited for state legislatures

(4) lack of reservation for women in State and central legislatures → less than 15% representatives are women in Parliament and ~10% in State legislatures

(5) Education and Health related issues of women → NFHS-5 survey → More than 30% pregnant women are still anemic

(6) Domestic Violence due to 'domestication' of women → as witnessed by the 'Silent Pandemic' during COVID-19 induced lockdown

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Steps to increase representation of women in state legislatures

① Reservation provision for women even in state legislatures

② Increasing the 'human capital' of women by targeted education and health measures eg. 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao', 'Sukanya Samriddhi'

③ Raising awareness regarding Child Marriage, Dowry laws, infanticide etc.

④ Preventive steps to protect women from domestic violence

⑤ Political Will → to recognise women as equal stakeholders in the political realm as well

⑥ Sensitization of male legislators

Bhakti Sharma of Barkhedi Abdullah Village, Women panchayat in latur Village (Maharashtra) etc. are examples of how women can lead by example if given the proper opportunity.

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15. For effective public service delivery, there is need to shift from traditional accountability mechanisms to social accountability mechanisms. In this context, discuss the pre-conditions for the success of social accountability efforts and challenges associated with them. (250 words) 15

प्रभावी सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण के लिए, पारंपरिक जवाबदेही तंत्र से सामाजिक जवाबदेही तंत्र में स्थानांतरित करने की आवश्यकता है। इस संदर्भ में, सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व के प्रयासों की सफलता के लिए पूर्व-शर्तों और उनसे जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Public service Delivery refers to the process via which the government provides essential 'public goods and services' alongwith other services to the citizens.

Traditional Accountability Mechanisms

- Institutional framework: CAG, CBI, CVC, lokpal & lokayuktas
- legal framework: Prevention of Corruption Act
- Free and fair elections
- Committees of legislatures (eg. Public Accounts committee)
- Audit Mechanisms eg. Indian Audit and Accounts services

Don't write anything this margin

Need for shift towards social accountability measures

① 'Social Accountability' refers to the ~~as~~ answerability of administrators (providers of public service delivery) towards the citizens who are entitled for that public service

② Failure of traditional accountability measures eg. Corruption Perception Index → India has low rank

③ Rigid bureaucratization has prevented the success of accountability measures

④ 'Social Accountability' will nudge the public service providers towards better service

⑤ 'Citizen Charter' has been a success in Britain and other countries

⑥ Substantive Democracy and Deliberative Democracy entails ideas of social accountability.

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Success of Social Accountability

* Pre-Conditions

- Behavioral Changes i.e. the citizens must want accountability vis-a-vis public service delivery
- Widespread use of technology by citizens
- better implementation of RTI
- 'political will' to move away from narrow political interests of vote-bank politics

* Challenges

- Backward technology of Indian bureaucracy
- Status-Quoist attitude of govt. machinery
- lack of strong legal and institutional frameworks
- Politicisation of Civil services

Social Accountability can go a long way in making India a truly welfare state.

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16. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) remains one of the most ambitious programmes for public welfare and rural development, but its objectives cannot be achieved without strong and capable Panchayati Raj Institutions. Elucidate.

(250 words) 15

महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी अधिनियम (मनरेगा) अभी भी लोक कल्याण और ग्रामीण विकास के लिए सबसे महत्वाकांक्षी कार्यक्रमों में से एक है, लेकिन इसके उद्देश्यों को मजबूत और सक्षम पंचायती राज संस्थानों के बिना हासिल नहीं किया जा सकता है। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) ensures 100 days of paid unskilled employment for one person in every rural household in a year.

(Importance of MGNREGA for public welfare and rural development)

① Fulfills the idea of welfare State (Article 38)

② Provides right to work (Article 41)

③ Ensures ~~that~~ right to life and decent living (Article 21)

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(4) Prevents bondage and indebtedness in the rural areas (Article 23)

(5) Empowerment of women

(6) Rural Development through creation of infrastructure

(7) Protection of environment through work on watershed management, rejuvenation of local water bodies eg. 'Johads' in Haryana, 'Taalabs' in Bihar etc.

Need for strong PRIs for success of MGNREGA

(1) PRIs are best suited for beneficiary identification

(2) Strong PRIs can determine priority areas (eg. rural infrastructure) which can be developed through labour under MGNREGA

(3) Functional women in PRIs can take

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relevant steps for betterment of conditions of work for women under MGNREGA eg. Creche facilities

(4) State Finance Commission, if empowered, can ensure better devolution of fund to bridge Intra-State divide under MGNREGA

(5) Payment of wages on time is a major issue that can be solved by strong and adequately funded PRIs

MKSS fought for MGNREGA because of its inherent benefits. Although, MGNREGA has been successful to some extent in fulfilling its lofty ambitions, strong PRIs can transform rural development paradigm through MGNREGA.

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17. Despite legal safeguards and international conventions, the State has failed to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities in general and those with psychosocial disabilities in particular. Discuss in the context of India.

(250 words) 15

कानूनी सुरक्षोपायों और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अभिसमयों के बावजूद, राज्य सामान्य रूप से दिव्यांगजनों और विशेष रूप से मनोसामाजिक दिव्यांगजनों के अधिकारों को बनाए रखने में विफल रहा है। भारत के संदर्भ में विवेचना कीजिए।

India is party to the UN convention on Right of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and also has enacted a law i.e. Right of persons with Disabilities Act.

Despite these acts and international conventions, State has failed to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities.

General failures

① Lack of inclusive infrastructure development → most of government facilities still lack infrastructure like ramps etc.

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② lack of awareness and sensitization regarding rights of persons with disabilities

③ very miniscule number of ~~dis~~ persons with disabilities are in state and ~~leg~~ central legislatures

④ schools, colleges etc. still discriminate against the persons with disabilities

⑤ 'lack of capabilities' for persons with disabilities → very few programs to skill, upskill, reskill them.

Failures with respect to persons with psychological disabilities

① lack of psychiatrists in India (only 5000-10000 psychiatrists) in India.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

② lack of institutional correction facilities

③ stigmatisation of persons with psychological disabilities is still prevalent.

Amartya Sen's 'Capability approach' should be followed to ensure that persons with disabilities get their rights in due time and supreme court guidelines must be followed.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. To what extent has the PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) been successful in solving the problem of rural housing in India? Discuss with adequate arguments. (250 words) 15

भारत में ग्रामीण आवास की समस्या को सुलझाने में प्रधान मंत्री आवास योजना (ग्रामीण) किस सीमा तक सफल रही है? पर्याप्त तर्कों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

PM Awas Yojana is a flagship scheme of Indian government to ensure 'Housing for all' in India. PMAY (Gramin) is the rural component of this program.

PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) → Objectives

① Building of housing facilities for all Indians living in rural areas

② Making housing available for rent at affordable prices by creating a rent market

③ Enhancing quality of life of Indians in rural areas (Article 21 → Right to live with dignity)

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(PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) → Successes)

① More than 50 lakh houses have already been built

② It has brought down the rate of housing in rural areas.

③ Protected rural Indians from social ills like crime, theft and many diseases and accidents

④ Empowerment of women and also dignity for them as they had to face harassment when living outside

⑤ Fulfilled Right to equality (Article 14) and Right to decent living conditions.

(PM Awas Yojana → Failures)

① still more than 5 lakh homeless people in rural areas (by extrapolation

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of (census 2011 data)

② Project is behind schedule due to funding issues especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic

③ Vacant houses have still not been used by Govt. to house the rural people.

④ Slow pace of rehabilitation and resettlement

⑤ Bureaucratic hurdles and other implementational challenges has led to exclusion of many deserving rural citizens.

PM Awas Yojana is an essential project for improving quality of life of Indians and it is on the right track to fulfill the aspirations of modern India.

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19. Despite the potential of India's Neighbourhood First policy, there have been several impediments to regional cooperation in South Asia. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

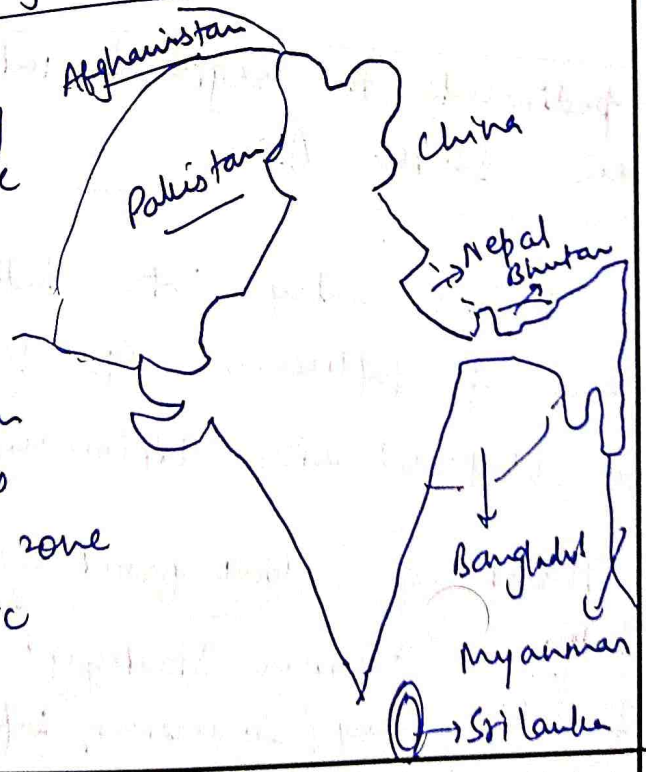
भारत की नेबरहुड फर्स्ट नीति में क्षमता होने के बावजूद, दक्षिण एशिया में क्षेत्रीय सहयोग के लिए कई बाधाएं विद्यमान हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

India's Neighbourhood First Policy is an extention of its Gujral Doctrine which envisaged India taking a leadership role in its immediate neighbourhood.

Potential of India's Neighbourhood First Policy

① Enhancing regional trade

→ Indian subcontinent ~~ha~~ has often been seen as a uniform zone for economic growth.



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② Ensuring safety and security in the region eg. Maritime Piracy threat can be dealt with through India's Neighbourhood First (NFP) Policy.

③ Energy Security → through multiple hydro power projects eg. with Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh

④ Regional Integration through Connectivity eg. Kaladan Multimodal Project, India - Bangladesh railway line

Impediments to regional Integration in South Asia

① China's entry into India's sphere of Influence eg. Debt-trap and Wolf warrior Diplomacy in Srilanka

② Threat of 'two front war' for India → 'Pincer Strategy' and I2 diplomacy (Incursion, Infiltration)

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by China and Pakistan

③ Failure of SAARC

④ Failure of democratic government in Myanmar

⑤ Dwindling economy and social fabric in Sri Lanka eg. forex issue, leasing of Hambantotah port, Tamil-Sinhalese dispute

⑥ Afghanistan becoming a narco-terrorist state

⑦ CPEC and BRI leading to exclusion of India from connectivity projects

However, India's NFP has adapted to the challenges and still aims for regional integration. eg.

① Discussions and Talks with Taliban and Junta government in Myanmar

② Diplomatic successes with Nepal and Sri Lanka

③ Wooing Bangladesh will elaborate celebrations of its ~~ta~~ liberation in 1971.

According to S. Jaishankar, a country can't become a leading power with unresolved border disputes, unintegrated regions and underexploited ~~gro~~ opportunities.

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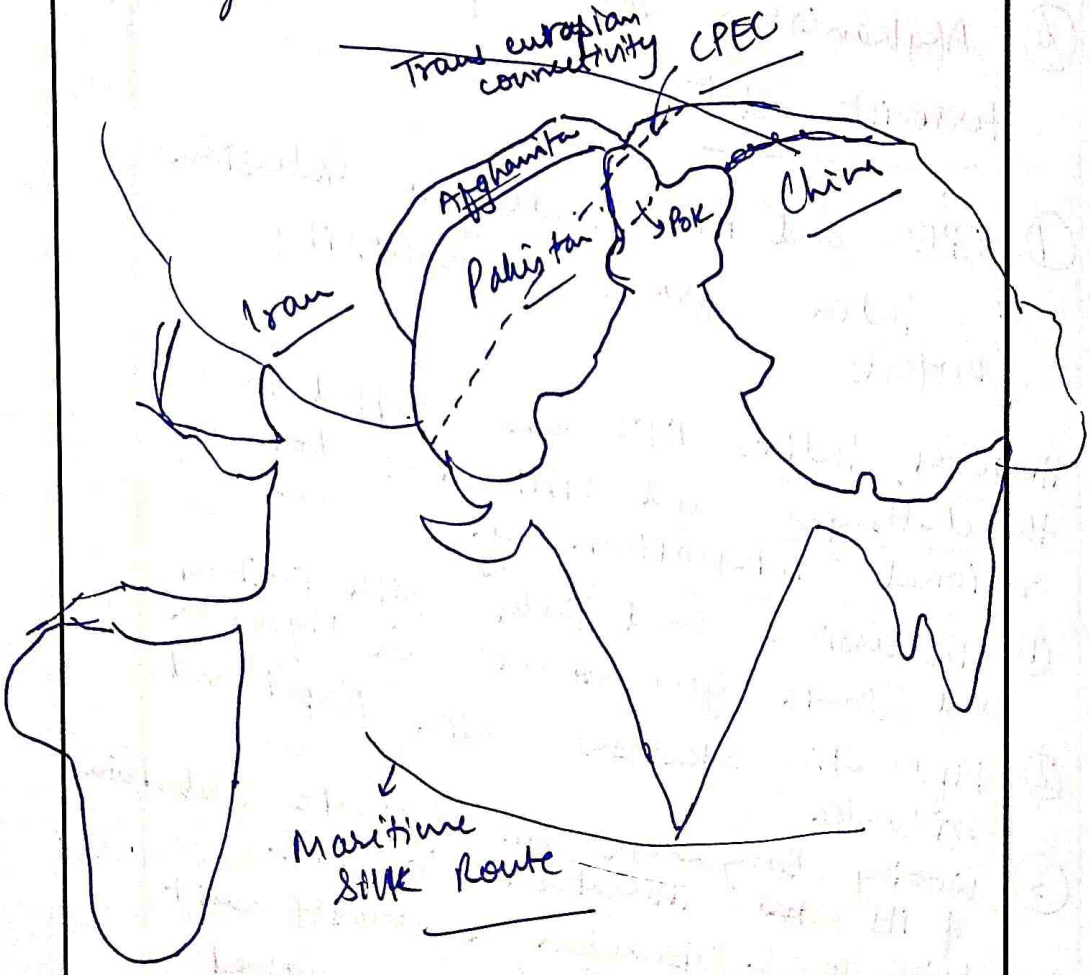
20. It is argued that China's Belt and Road Initiative has resulted in unsustainable debt-for-infrastructure deals in several countries across continents and it is a part of debt trap diplomacy. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि चीन का बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव महाद्वीपों के कई देशों में गैर-संधारणीय अवसंरचना के लिए-ऋण आधारित सौदों में परिणत हुआ है और यह ऋण जाल कूटनीति का एक हिस्सा है। चर्चा कीजिए।

China's Belt and Road Initiative is a part of its 'cheque-book' and 'debt-trap' diplomacy aiming towards infrastructure and connectivity projects through unsustainable loans.



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Unsustainable debt- for -infrastructure deals → Debt- Trap Diplomacy

① Sri Lanka ~~China~~ had to lease its 'Hambantota' port to China after it failed on its payment → clear example of unsustainable loan

② India balked ~~out~~ of such deals due to the unsustainable economic nature of such projects

③ China has 'deep pockets' and 'state led' market model → gives ample scope for financing such projects

④ China → expansionist and revisionist power → aims at occupying these areas who default on payments

⑤ Pakistan is facing burgeoning debts due to CPEC and loans from china are at exorbitant rates

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(6) BRI is also a manifestation of China's idea of 'String of Pearls' to encircle India. (eg. Hambantota Port, Djibouti Port, Gwadar Port → militarisation in future)

India, alongwith G7 countries has initiated projects to counter China's BRI with sustainable infrastructure creation eg. G7's B3W (Build Back Better world) through Cornwall Consensus.

India has also partnered with South Korea, Japan and others for 'Supply Chain Resilience Initiative' to counter China's weaponisation of supply chain.

China debt trap diplomacy legitimises Mrs. Indira Gandhi's quote vis-a-vis China, i.e. "Verify but never trust".

1PM - 4PM

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1987)

Name of Candidate	ASHISH		
Medium Eng./Hindi	Eng.	Registration Number	1010258
Center	ONLINE	Date	18/11/21

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
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3	10	
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18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. The move to establish a National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID), to reverse the drag on India's growth potential will have its own set of challenges. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

भारत की संवृद्धि क्षमता संबंधी अवरोधों को व्युत्क्रमित करने के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय अवसंरचना वित्तपोषण और विकास बैंक (NBFID) की स्थापना के कदम की अपनी स्वाभाविक चुनौतियां होंगी। चर्चा कीजिए।

National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) was announced in Budged 2021-22 in order to facilitate undertaking of large investment measures for the long term.

NBFID to reverse the drag on India's growth potential

① long gestation projects required large and long term credit.

② Facilitation of investment in infrastructure led virtuous cycle

Govt. investment in infrastructure → Crowd-In → Private Investment → Productivity ↑ → Economic growth

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However, NBFID has following challenges:

① Lack of 'Fiscal space' for the Union Govt. (eg. 6.8% Fiscal Deficit target for FY 22)

② NPA crisis in Public Sector banks

③ Implementation Issues

eg. → 'Regulatory cholestrol' according to Economic Survey (ES)

→ 'Red Tapism'

④ Land Acquisition problems → constraining the viability of products

⑤ NBFID → Govt. owned → same set of problems which has caused the economic stagflation.

However, NBFID is a vital step in leading India towards a $5 Trillion economy.

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2. Mega Food Parks (MFPs) were considered to be a gamechanger for the food processing sector in India, but their progress remains stunted. Discuss. (150 words) 10

मेगा फूड पार्कों (MFPs) को भारत में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्र के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण चरण (गेमचेंजर) समझा गया था, लेकिन उनकी प्रगति अभी भी अवरुद्ध है। चर्चा कीजिए।

According to the latest estimates, only 22 of the 37 approved Mega food parks in India are actually operational.

Mega food Parks as gamechangers

① Increased contribution of Manufacturing to GVA from the stagnant 15-16% since 1991

② Employment generation → huge scope [as 11-12 millions are joining the Indian workforce every year]

③ Value addition potential → India already produces world's max. volume of many agri. products.

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(4) growth of MSMEs through forward-backward linkages

However, progress of MFPs has stunted because:

(1) Credit crunch → eg. due to the 'great lockdown' induced global synchronised recession

(2) Infrastructure bottlenecks → eg. Large cost on logistics, connectivity issues.

(3) Bureaucratic hurdles → undue delays

(4) Quality of products is low due to low economies of scale

(5) Agriculture related issues → eg. low technological usage

Mega Food Parks are essential for India's self-reliance and export led growth, as mandated by the AtmaNirbhar policy.

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3. Explain the working of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) model. Also, discuss its significance in the Indian context. (150 words) 10

निजी वित्त पहल (PFI) मॉडल की कार्यप्रणाली को स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, भारतीय संदर्भ में इसके महत्व की भी विवेचना कीजिए।

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4. Highlighting the significance of new labour codes for India, discuss the challenges associated with them. **(150 words) 10**

भारत के लिए नई श्रम संहिताओं के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उनसे संबद्ध चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Around 20 labour laws were consolidated into three new labour codes in 2020 in order to improve the condition of labour in India.

Significance

1. 'Social Security' → through wages, and other measures like insurance etc.
2. 'Better work conditions' → regulation of working hours, overtime wages etc.
3. Total Factor Productivity improvement → by way of better health, wages, motivation etc.
4. Investments & Economic Growth → clear codified laws will attract more investment
5. Reduced litigations → Cost ↓, Time ↓
6. Abolition of 'Inspector Raj' → More transparency

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Challenges associated with labour Codes

① Vague Provisions → regarding contract labour, hiring & farming etc.

② lack of protective measures → lack of national floor wages etc.

③ Rights of the labour → More autonomy to the employer regarding working conditions

④ Pro-Capitalist & Anti-labour tendencies → restricting the power of labour unions etc.

⑤ Neglect of women → creche provisions have not been made universal

⑥ lack of foresight → growth in technology, ICT etc.

The new labour codes are the right step in the direction to achieve Sustainable Development Goal #8 i.e. Decent work and Economic growth.

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5. The Public Distribution System (PDS) in India is not only a significant anti-poverty measure but also serves as an instrument of raising nutritional security. Discuss. (150 words) 10

भारत में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (PDS) न केवल एक महत्वपूर्ण निर्धनता-रोधी उपाय है, अपितु यह पोषणात्मक सुरक्षा बढ़ाने के एक साधन के रूप में भी कार्य करती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Public Distribution System is the cornerstone of India's vision of a welfare state as mandated by the Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 38).

PDS as an anti-poverty measure

Food Availability
↓
lesser disease burden
↓
Human Capital ↑
↓
Productivity ↑
↓
Employability ↑
↓
Income ↑

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PDS as instrument of raising nutritional security

① National Food Security Act
↳ mandates the Govt. to ensure nutritional security

② Subsidised food eg. Rice → Rs 2/kg
What → Rs 1/kg

③ Fortified food → eg. Vitamin B12, Folic Acid
to reduce Anemia

Min. of Consumer Affairs, Food & PD & was the 2nd largest funded ministry in Budget 2021-22.

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6. It is argued that excessive state intervention in itself has created multiple hurdles in the agricultural marketing system in India. Explain with adequate evidence. (150 words) 10

यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि स्वयं राज्य के अत्यधिक हस्तक्षेप ने भारत में कृषि विपणन प्रणाली में अनेक बाधाएं उत्पन्न की हैं। यथोचित साक्ष्यों के आधार पर स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Economic Survey 2019-20 envisaged government's role as the 'Hand of Trust' to assist the 'Invisible Hand' (of the Market) in order to ensure wealth creation and agricultural marketing system has a major role to play in that regard.

Benefits of excessive state intervention

① Prevents price shocks → eg. through MSP

② Prohibits exploitation by large corporates → eg. through State APMC Acts

③ Ensures food security → eg. M.S. Swaminathan → twin planks of food security → MSP, subsidies

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Hurdles created by 'excessive' state interventions :

① Proliferation of intermediaries → eg. 'Arhatiyas' in the APMC mandis

② Increased prices without value additions → eg. through fees/charges at mandis

③ Constraints to market forces

④ lack of unified agricultural market → due to every state having different provisions

⑤ Economic Survey → 'Cob-Web' phenomena → due to MSP → shifting focus on different crops as per MSP rate shifts

Steps like e-NAM will reduce excessive state interventions and the new farm laws will better integrate farmers with the market.

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7. Identifying the need for a climate resilient agriculture in India, discuss how it can be achieved. (150 words) 10

भारत में जलवायु प्रत्यास्थ कृषि की आवश्यकता की पहचान करते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि इसे कैसे प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

Only 48% of India's agricultural lands are irrigated, which points towards disproportiate monsoon reliance. Therefore, the need of the hour in India is a climate resilient agriculture.

Need for Climate Resilient Agriculture in India

① Monsoon Dependency → Climate change adversely affects the patterns of monsoon

② Increasing population → Food Security must be ensured

③ Employment and growth opportunities
↳ through ancilliary industries etc.

④ Reduce Climate Risk → eg. Sugarcane & Rice → guzzle tonnes of water in one go.

⑤ Disproportionate effects on Women
↳ eg. Drought affected areas → Women have to walk miles to fetch water

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Steps to achieve Climate Resilient Agriculture

① Technological Progress in Agriculture

eg. Use of Drip and sprinker Irrigation System has already benefitted 11 lakh farmers in India

② AI enabled Precision Agriculture

③ Perma Agriculture

④ Vertical Farming eg. Aquaponics

⑤ Crop Diversification → Crop Rotation, Inter-cropping etc.

⑥ ~~Dr~~ Climate Resilient Seeds

↳ eg. already being used in West Bengal, Assam, Odisha

⑦ Genetic Engineering eg. Drought & Cold Resistant Rubber being tested in Assam.

Climate Resilient Agriculture can result in result in sustainable high rates in Agriculture growth after 3.4% growth in 2020-21

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8. Despite a vast coast line and a number of waterways, why has India not been able to achieve its potential in bringing a significant modal shift from rail and road to waterways? (150 words) 10

विस्तृत तट रेखा और अनेक जलमार्गों के बावजूद, भारत रेल और सड़क परिवहन प्रणाली मे जलमार्गों की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण प्रणालीगत परिवर्तन (मोडल शिफ्ट) करने हेतु अपनी क्षमता को सार्थक करने में क्यों असमर्थ रहा है?

Road (60%) and Rail (25%) have combined share of 85% in transportation despite India having 7517 km coastline and more than 15000 km of navigable waterways.

Benefits of 'waterways' based transportation

① Cost | Road → 2.5 ₹ / km
Rail → 1 ₹ / km
Water → 0.5 ₹ / km

② Traffic → less traffic congestion, less road crashes

③ Environment → cleaner transportation

④ Growth in Coastal Areas

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

India's inability to shift from road & rail to waterways

① Faulty models and legislations
↳ service port model instead of land-lord port model which is the global practice in Washington Consensus.

② Lack of Infrastructure → leading to high pre-birth time → leading to high turnaround time → high transaction cost

③ Centre-State Tussle over control of waterways and ports

④ Environmental Concerns → eg. with river-linking projects

⑤ Policy uncertainty → Aim is to increase rail freight-cargo from 1.1 bn tonnes in 2017 to 3.3 bn tons in 2030.

However, the newly created Inland Waterways Authority of India is taking the right steps to enhance the modal shift.

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9. Highlighting its potential, discuss the challenges that are being faced in the dairy sector in India. Also suggest some steps, which can be taken in this regard. **(150 words) 10**

डेयरी क्षेत्रक की क्षमता पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, भारत में इस क्षेत्रक द्वारा सामना की जा रही चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में उठाए जा सकने वाले कुछ कदमों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

Although India produces more than 20% of the total milk produced in India, the ~~secto~~ dairy sector is faced with myriad of problems and has ample scope for improvement.

Potential of Dairy Sector

1. Ensure food security for the entire country
2. Improve dairy exports with development of dry products on the lines of New Zealand etc.
3. Create more employment through co-operatives like Amul
4. Dairy production at scale → through Farmer Producer organisations (FPOs)

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Challenges faced by Dairy sector

① lack of credit availability → due to Coronavirus pandemic → growing NPAs

② Price Volatility

③ Economies of scale → due to lesser no. of cooperatives,

④ Politicisation of cooperatives → eg. Maharashtra protests
dairy

Steps

① Empower FPOs and FPCs

② Domestic Breeds → protections
→ breeding
eg. Red Sindhi, Sahiwal etc.

③ Improve infrastructure eg. Warehousing
↳ roads etc.

Govt. has aimed to open 10000 FPOs in the next five years which may lead to the next White Revolution

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10. It has been argued that remedying the exclusion of the majority of women from access to and control of rural land in India is one of the most significant steps that could be taken towards enhancing the country's rural livelihoods. In this context, identify the challenges in access to land rights by women. What measures can be taken to strengthen these rights?

(150 words) 10

यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि भारत में ग्रामीण भूमि तक पहुँच और उस पर नियंत्रण से अधिकांश महिलाओं के बहिष्करण का समाधान, देश की ग्रामीण आजीविका में उन्नति की दिशा में उठाए जा सकने वाले सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण कदमों में से एक है। इस संदर्भ में, भूमि अधिकारों तक महिलाओं की पहुँच में विद्यमान चुनौतियों की पहचान कीजिए। इन अधिकारों को सुदृढ़ बनाने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जा सकते हैं?

Even though 84% of all employed women in India are in the agricultural sector, only less than 15% of agricultural holdings belong to women.

CHALLENGES to land rights by women

① Exclusionary property laws → eg. Hindu Marriage Act, Succession Acts etc.

② Faulty implementation of land reforms
↳ No particular focus on tenancy rights to women

③ lack of credit availability → due to lack of data related to credit worthiness

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(4) Social Customs → prohibits women from owning rural lands & ostracizes women who fight for their land rights

(5) Political Weaknesses → practices like 'Sarpanch - Pati' also blemish women's perception of their abilities

Measures that can be taken

(1) Explicit land & property rights to women
eg. Amendments to Hindu Succession Act

(2) Political Empowerment → through their participation in campaigns etc.

(3) Empower SHGs → eg. Kudumbashree model in Kerala

(4) Education and Awareness generation

(5) Land Record Digitization

SVAMITVA scheme and PM Awas Yojana (Rural) will go a long way in ensuring women's rights on agri land.

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11. There is an increasing recognition to move ahead to an effective medium term fiscal framework from the annual budget cycles, for political and economic sustainability of fiscal policies. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

राजकोषीय नीतियों की राजनीतिक और आर्थिक संधारणीयता के लिए वार्षिक बजट चक्रों से प्रभावी मध्यावधिक राजकोषीय ढांचे की ओर जाने की स्वीकार्यता बढ़ती जा रही है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The fiscal deficit has been estimated at 6.8%. and the central government debt-to-GDP ratio has been estimated at 61.7% for FY22 in Budget 2021-22.

Medium Term Fiscal Framework

→ The govt. has been mandated to put forward medium term fiscal framework in the FRBM Act.

→ It ensures a pragmatic and practical vision that can be achieved in the next few years

→ Ensures political stability as well by being coterminous ~~be~~ with the political tenure.

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Issues with the annual budget cycles

① lack of flexibility → not well suited to exigencies like pandemics, etc.

② lack of accountability → due to features in the FRBM Act ~~due~~ like the Escape clause

③ Constrains the fiscal space of the govt. → reduces the manoeuverability

④ promotes populist policies

⑤ Results in March rush when all departments scramble to spent the designated ~~to~~ funds at the end of the financial year

Shift towards effective medium term fiscal policy

① International developments ~~&~~ (especially

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in the West).

(2) long gestation projects like infrastructure projects (NIP) can be planned in an efficient manner

(3) promotes policy foresight

(4) ensures ~~aca~~ economic stability due to less scope for reactive knee jerk ~~react~~ policies

(5) Increases political accountability.

Fiscal Council as recommended by NK Singh Review Committee should be the first steps towards implementing a transparent medium term fiscal policy.

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12. Analyze the causes and consequences of growing economic inequality in India. Also, suggest some measures needed to deal with it. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में बढ़ती आर्थिक असमानता के कारणों और परिणामों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, इससे निपटने के लिए आवश्यक कुछ उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

Almost 360 million people in India are still below poverty line and this no. is expected to grow in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Causes of this inequality

① Constraints on economic growth

eg. Backward infrastructure, policy issues

→ leading to low spill over effects

② Reduced unemployment opportunities at a time when 11-12 million Indians are joining the workforce every year

③ Faulty redistribution

Economic Survey defined Inequality as the dispersion in distribution of incomes, resources etc.

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(4) Unbalanced regional growth

eg. Green Revolution → neglect of states like Bihar etc.

(5) Rural-Urban Divide

(6) Digital Divide

(7) lack of human capital eg.

62% Out of Pocket Expenditure in Health in India → no savings left for the poor

Consequences of economic inequality

(1) Increasing hunger and poverty
↳ SDGs (1) & (2) not getting fulfilled

(2) Social conflict (Unrest)

(3) Against Constitutional Ideals

(4) Vicious cycle → India → fear of Middle Income Trap

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Measures

① ES 2019-20] → Focus on Wealth Creation
i.e. Increase the size of the pie (economic) → better redistribution

② Pro-business instead of Pro-Crony policies

③ strengthening social security measures like PM-KISAN, MGNREGA, NSOAP etc.

④ Universal Basic Income → trials in M.P. by SEWA

⑤ Increase Human Capital
↳ Health Expenditure (in India) → 1.2-1.9% of GDP only

Concern (Report)
Oxfam → The Inequality Virus → Billionaires in India gained 35% during pandemic

However, the Govt's increased focus on health (National Health Mission, PM-JAY), education (NEP) and employment & infra. (NIP, NMP) all steps in the right direction to reduce economic inequality.

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13. A number of initiatives in recent years have focussed on the MSME sector. Why is there a need to focus on this sector? Also, identify the measures taken by the government and further scope of action. **(250 words) 15**

हाल के वर्षों में अनेक पहलों ने MSME क्षेत्रक पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया है। इस क्षेत्रक पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने की आवश्यकता क्यों है? साथ ही, सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों और आगे की कार्रवाई के दायरे की पहचान कीजिए।

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Govt. (as part of its Atmanirbhar Package) announced the Emergency Credit Linked Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSMEs.

[Need to focus on the MSME Sector]

→ MSMEs
- 30% of India's GDP
- 45% of manufacturing
- 40% of total exports

→ Employs around 11 crore Indians [out of the 52 crore workforce]

→ Women Empowerment → Many MSMEs are run by women SHGs eg. Lizzat Papad

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→ develops the Indian industry through backward - forward linkages

eg. small auto parts industry

→ Inclusive growth

Measures taken by the Govt.

① Definition Change → merged the separate criteria for manufacturing & service sector

[micro → 1 Cr Investment, 5 Cr Turnover
small → 10 Cr " , 50 " "]
Medium → 50 Cr " , 250 " "

↳ This in turn, reduces the complexities in demarcation

② ~~EMC~~ ECLGS → to ensure easy credit availability

③ MITRA scheme → to revive the textile sector plagued by Technological fatigue (acc. to Economic Survey)

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(4) National Technical Textile Mission → to take benefit of our natural advantage

(5) Production linked Incentive Scheme

Further Scope of Action

(1) Remove the DWARFISM (ES)

too many small entitities

↳ due to policies of govt. promoting small entities eg. Tax benefits, subsidies etc.

(2) Generate the (Missing Middle)

too many small entities, too few large ones and No MIDDLE

(3) Focus on sunrise industries → eg. Mega Food Parks (Food Processing)

(4) Microfinance facilities to empower more SHGs

(5) Electricity and Water resource availability → to reduce cost and improve competitiveness

The National Infrastructure Pipeline will also play a major role in reviving the MSME sector

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14. Critically analyse the suggestion of allowing large corporate and industrial houses to act as promoters of banks. **(250 words) 15**
बड़े कॉर्पोरेट और औद्योगिक घरानों को बैंकों के प्रवर्तकों के रूप में कार्य करने की अनुमति देने के सुझाव का समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Banks ~~and NBFCs~~ in India are facing NPA crisis for the last few years and Gross NPAs in India has reached 7.5%. which is expected to rise to 9% due to COVID-19 induced technical recession.

* Suggestions to allow large corporate and industrial houses to promote banks

Pros

① Recapitalisation of banks

Recapitalisation → Credit Availability → low lending rates → Investments ↑ → Economic growth

② Curbing the twin-balance sheet syndrome

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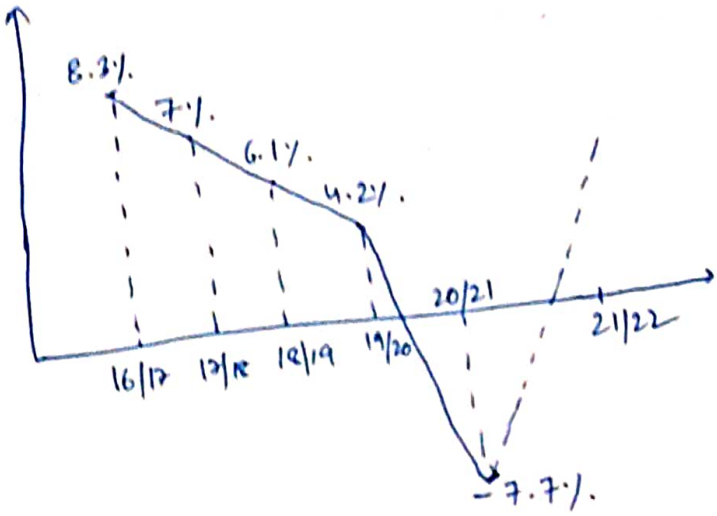
(3) Revive the fledgling economy → losing steam even before 'the great lockdown'

eg. GDP Growth rate



~~(4) Consolidated Ind~~

(4) Minimise credit risks and enhance India's sovereign credit Ratings

(5) ~~Enhan~~ Enhanced capabilities of India's banks → Global ~~Ex~~ ~~appr~~ dominance [only 1 Indian banks in top 100]

Cons

~~(1) Breaking~~

(1) Conflict of Interest → Breaking of the 'Chinese wall'

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② Systemic Risks to the economy

eg. Global financial crisis

③ Crony - Capitalism → as faced by India when the banks were not nationalised

④ Political Implications → Despotism, Politico - corporate nexus

⑤ Difficulties in implementation

⑥ Increased regulatory burden on RBI

Therefore, it is prudent to constitute a multi-stakeholder committee with technical specialists to look into this proposal and come up with the appropriate plan of action

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15. Financial stability is generally the domain of monetary authority; however, the fiscal policy of the government has the potential to either facilitate or undermine it. Analyse in the context of India. **(250 words) 15**

वित्तीय स्थिरता सामान्यत: मौद्रिक प्राधिकरण का कार्यक्षेत्र है; हालांकि, सरकार की राजकोषीय नीति में या तो इसे सुगम बनाने या कमजोर करने की क्षमता होती है। भारत के संदर्भ में विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The increasing debt-to-GDP ratio in India due to fiscal imprudence and stimulus needs has led to very low sovereign ratings for India by Credit Rating Agencies.

Financial Stability as the domain of monetary authority

* INDIA → RBI is the primary monetary authority

* RBI → ensures financial stability through
  1. Policy rates → currently repo
  2. Reserve limits → eg. CRR, SLR
  3. Monetary Policy targeting → currently INFLATION Targeting
  4. Open Market Operations eg. GSAP

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(5) Moral Suasion

(6) Forex reserves → crossed USD 640 billion

(7) Contingency reserves

* SEBI → regulates securities markets

Fiscal Policy & Financial Stability

(1) facilitation of financial stability

→ by fiscal prudence (FRBM Act)

→ by investment measures

eg. NIP → ₹ 111 lakh crore → to revive the economy

→ by tax cuts and raising tax rates

eg. cutting of corporate tax rates to promote more investments

→ Counter cyclical Fiscal Policy (as recommended by Economic Survey)

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें)

② Undermining of financial stability

→ unchecked borrowings → crowds-out private investments & fear of Ricardian Equivalence

→ populist measures → eg. loan waivers → constrains the fiscal space

→ faulty legislations → eg. Essential Commodities Act (before amendment)

→ crony capitalism

Financial Stability and Development Council has taken a major role in balancing fiscal and monetary policies to ensure financial stability in India.

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

16. Discuss the issues plaguing crop procurement in India. Also, suggest measures to strengthen the procurement framework. **(250 words) 15**
भारत में फसल खरीद को बाधित करने वाले मुद्दों की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, खरीद ढांचे को मजबूत बनाने के उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

The recent farm laws are aimed towards removing the issues plaguing crop procurement in India.

Issues plaguing crop procurement in India

1. Overemphasis on Food ~~Corporation~~ Council of India (FCI) to procure crops
2. Only Wheat & Rice → Open Procurement
3. lack of mandis etc in the rural regions
4. Transportation issues
5. Infrastructural Issues
   - (a) warehousing & cold storage → underdeveloped
   - (b) logistics cost → very high

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

⑥ Structural Issues

↳ Government has ~~only~~ already huge stocks which go to waste due to focus only on rice & wheat

↳ Failure of other procurement models

eg. Decentralised Procurement

↳ only implemented in a few states

Measures to strengthen the procurement framework

① Nudge the States to follow Decentralised Procurement

② Contract Farming eg. New farm act

③ Improve warehousing and cold-storage infrastructure

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(4) Improve transport infra. eg. KISAN RAIL

(5) Use of ICT
↳ eg. e-NAM → integrated national market

(6) Increase Gram Mandis for local procurement

Improving Crop Procurement is essential to double farmers' income and ensure food security in India.

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17. What do you understand by e-agriculture? Explaining how information and communication technology (ICT) can help the agriculture sector, highlight some initiatives taken by the government in this regard. **(250 words) 15**

ई-कृषि से आप क्या समझते हैं? यह स्पष्ट करते हुए कि सूचना और संचार प्रौद्योगिकी (ICT) कैसे कृषि क्षेत्रक की सहायता कर सकती है, इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा की गई कुछ पहलों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

e-Agriculture refers to the buying and selling of Agricultural produce and inputs on the digital medium.

ICT in Agriculture → Positives

① Price Discovery → Real time market price discovery
↳ will reduce role of intermediaries

② Precision Farming → Real time data on weather forecasts, irrigation status etc.

③ Farm Mechanisation → currently only 40-45% of Indian agri. can be considered to be mechanised.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(4) Market Availability → large national market can become available → will prevent local distress sales

(5) Consulting and Training → Online training and doubt resolving mechanisms can be made easily available

Initiatives taken by Govt. in this regard

(1) e-NAM → (electronic National Agricultural Market)
↳ facilitation of a unified national market

(2) Krishi Vigyan Kendras → to facilitate training and knowledge advancement of farmers.

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(3) ARYA scheme → to retain youth in agriculture more advanced vis-a-vis ICT

(4) Renewed focus on Agricultural Education

(5) Collaboration with Israel to improve ICT adoption in India

(6) ~~Scholar~~ Kisan Mitra schemes → college students to go to village to assist farmers in ICT

Clearly, the Govt. has focused on ICT adoption in agriculture to improve the agricultural growth rate in India.

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. Explaining the concept of Integrated Water Resource Management, discuss how it can help in addressing the gaps in the present system of water management in India. **(250 words) 15**

एकीकृत जल संसाधन प्रबंधन की अवधारणा की व्याख्या करते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि यह भारत में जल प्रबंधन की वर्तमान प्रणाली में व्याप्त कमियों को दूर करने में कैसे सहायता कर सकता है।

According to NITI Aayog, 21 cities in India can face Day Zero situation with regard to water availability in India if better water management practices are not adopted in due time.

Integrated Water Resource Management

→ refers to the practice and policy of conserving water resources in an integrated manner i.e. ground water, river basins, watershed management

→ under an umbrella approach

IWRM → to address the gaps in the present system of water management in India

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Present Gaps

1. Unchecked depletion and pollution of ground water
2. 'Silos' approach to water management
   [i.e. No unity in action]
3.

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. Skilling the Indian population faces a 3E challenge - Education, Employment and Employability. Discuss. Also suggest interventions required to effectively manage this challenge. **(250 words) 15**

भारतीय जनसंख्या को कौशल युक्त बनाने में 3E चुनौतियों, यथा- शिक्षा (एजुकेशन), रोजगार (एम्प्लॉयमेंट) और नियोजनीयता (एम्प्लॉयविलिटी) का सामना करना पड़ता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इन चुनौतियों का प्रभावी ढंग से प्रबंधन करने के लिए आवश्यक हस्तक्षेपों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

India has a chance to utilise its Demographic Dividend for the next 25 years but if not properly harnessed, it can turn into a demographic time bomb.

3E Challenge to Skilling the Indian population

① Education

→ lack of industry-academia linkage

→ outdated education techniques focused on rote learning

→ high drop-out rate in secondary and higher education

→ low enrolment rate in higher edu^n

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

② Employment

→ Underdeveloped labour-absorbing sector
eg. leather, textile etc.

→ PLFS 2019-20 → only 40% LFPR

→ Declining Female LFPR | → 35% in 2005
| → 26% in 2018

→ Around 4-8% Indians are unemployed despite actively looking for employment

③ Employability

→ According to recent data, only 47% of students graduating from higher education institutions are employable

→ only 5.7% Indians are formally skill-trained

→ outdated skills in a fast paced technological world

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Interventions Required

1. NITI Aayog → Operational Labour Information Management System

2. PM Modi → Skill, Upskill, Reskill

3. Develop textile, leather, food processing and other manufacturing industries.
   eg. MITRA scheme

4. Bridge the digital divide. eg. ASER report → only 11% rural students could access digital education during lockdown

5. Skilling as a jana-andolan

Due to the huge potential, schemes and portals like PM-Kaushal Vikas Yojana (already skilled 72 lakh people) and e-Shram are steps in the right direction at the right time.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

20. Examine the importance of foreign capital for a developing country, like India. **(250 words) 15**
भारत जैसे विकासशील देश के लिए विदेशी पूँजी के महत्व का परीक्षण कीजिए।

FDI in India saw a growth of 10% in 2021 in comparison to 2020.

Importance of foreign Capital in India

* Foreign Capital → FII, FDI

* **Benefits of FII**

① Enhanced liquidity in the securities market

② Positive sentiments in the investors

③ Working capital requirements are fulfilled in the short term

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Benefits of FDI

* Technical competence and better business specialisation
* Better corporate Governance
* Solid Forex earnings

General Benefits of foreign capital in India

① Economic growth

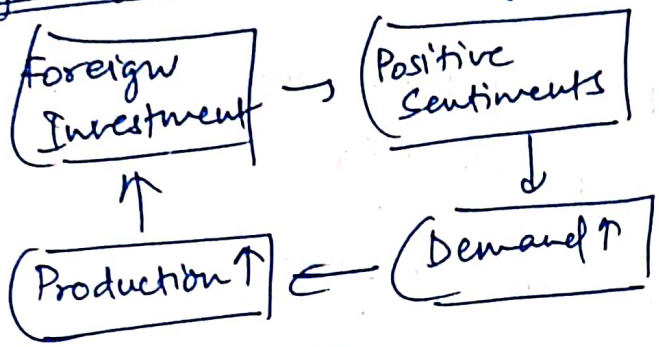
Foreign Investment → Productivity ↑
↓
Production ↑
↓
Cost ↓
↓
Competetiveness ↑
↓
Economic Growth

② Reduced ICOR [Incremental Capital Output Ratio]

③ Reduced ~~Cof~~ Current Account Deficit & Forex earnings

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

④ Psychological Virtuous Cycle



⑤ Inclusive Growth

However, foreign capital in India is also associated with certain challenges like:

① 'Hot Money' [eg. FIIs run away when better opportunities arise elsewhere]

② Profits to foreign capitalists

③ Fears of 'indirect imperialism/colonization'

④ Volatility

⑤ Anti-labour practices eg. Wistron factory in Karnataka

However, despite the challenges, if regulated carefully, Foreign Capital can solve many issues in India.